

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application.

Claim 20 is amended herein.

No new matter is entered by the amendments.

The claims are allowable for the reasons set forth herein.

Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Priority

A certified copy of EP 01000711 is being filed separately in fulfillment of 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement is being filed separately. There is no indication that the references previously cited in an Information Disclosure Statement have been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and

distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 20 is also argued to be unclear under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph.

Claim 20 is amended herein to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-7 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al.

Matsumoto et al. is cited as disclosing many of the claimed features. As admitted by the Office, Matsumoto teaches a surface roughness of 0.1 to 0.4 microns. The Office even admits knowledge that surface roughness affects light scattering properties without considering the ramifications of this knowledge. It is well known that decreasing surface roughness increases sharpness. This is in contradication to the statement by the Office that one would wish to increase light scattering at the surface since increasing sharpness is an everpresent desire. It is therefore not surprising that Matsumoto would

teach a preferred range of surface roughness which minimizes light scattering.

As set forth on page 36 of the instant specification this known phenomenon is not observed with the presently claimed screen. Instead, the increased surface area actual reacts opposite to the expectations of one of ordinary skill in the art. This is contrary to the expectations and contrary to the direction that one of ordinary skill in the art would be expected to move to optimize resolution.

Matsumoto not only fails to obviate the presently claimed invention but teaches contrary to the claimed surface roughness.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-7 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. is based on teachings which are contrary to the claimed invention and should therefore be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. in view of Kuriyama et al.

Matsumoto et al. has been discussed previously.

Kuriyama et al. is cited as teaching the use of light scattering particles within the layer not for light scattering on the surface. Intralayer scattering is desirable for increasing resolution. Surface scattering is not desirable for increasing resolution. Surface roughness is considered undesirable for other reasons as set forth in Kuriyama et al. wherein stated in col. 7, lines 14-18 is:

"a simple surface roughness treatment is not favorable for imparting to the fluororesin-containing resin layer the satisfactory light-scattering property without decreasing its various advantageous physical and chemical properties"

Kuriyama et al., taken in context, clearly teaches that surface roughness is not desirable but that interior scatter is desirable. The description of scatter in Kuriyama et al. has been taken out of the context to make the present rejection. This is improper.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-3 and 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. in view of Kuriyama et al. is improper and removal is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. in view of Van Havenbergh et al.

Matsumoto et al. is discussed previously. In summary, the surface roughness of the presently claimed invention is not taught and Matsumoto et al. teaches contrary to the higher surface roughness.

Van Havenbergh et al. is cited as teaching certain elements of the claim. Van Havenbergh et al. fails to teach that increasing the surface roughness would be advantageous as set forth in the present specification in deference to that expected by one of ordinary skill in the art. Van Havenbergh et al. supports the teachings of Matsumoto et al. that surface roughness should be avoided. In col. 15, line 66 to col. 16 line 3, Havenbergh et al. teaches:

"The surface roughness of an outermost coating can be controlled by the use of a flowing agent, the type of which and concentration determines the speed wherein the mechanically implied embossed structure becomes flattened before curing."

Matsumoto describes heating and pressing to decrease surface tension and Van Havenbergh teaches flattening with a flowing

agent. These combined teachings would lead one of ordinary skill in the art to minimizing surface roughness which is contrary to the claimed invention.

Claims 1-3 and 8-10 are contrary to that expected by one of ordinary skill in the art as clearly set forth in the combination of Matsumoto and Van Havenbergh. A rejection of claims 1-3 and 8-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. in view of Van Havenbergh et al. is improper and removal is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. in view of Yamazaki et al.

Matsumoto et al. fails to teach the surface roughness and, in fact, teaches against a high surface roughness as set forth herein.

Yamazaki et al. is cited as teaching the specific phosphor. Also taught in Yamazaki et al. at col. 4, lines 60-61, in reference to the phosphor layer is:

"the phosphor layer has a smooth surface"

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that optimization of surface roughness would tend to a lower roughness with Matsumoto providing guidance on the operative range. This teaching is contrary to the presently claimed invention.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 19 are patentable over Matsumoto et al. in view of Yamazaki et al. and notice thereof is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSIONS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. All claims are in condition for allowance. Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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**THE STAMP OF THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE HEREON
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SERIAL NO: 10/036,287
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TITLE: Radiation Image Storage Pannel
DOCKET NO.: 27500-71

ENCLOSURES:

- 1) Response Under 37 CFR 1.111 (12pp.)
- 2) Return Postcard

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